

2024



# Electric Vehicle Policy



## Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

Wyndham City Council recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first Peoples of Australia. We acknowledge the Bunurong and Wadawurrung Peoples as Traditional Owners of the lands on which Wyndham City operates. The Wadawurrung and Bunurong Peoples have and always will belong to the Werribee Yalook (river), creeks, stars, hills and red clay of this Country. We pay respect to their Ancestors and Elders who always have, and always will, care for Country and community today and for future generations.

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## Purpose

This policy sets out the objectives and principles Council will use in supporting the electrification of the transport sector in Wyndham. It establishes Council's role and responsibilities in relation to supporting the uptake of electric vehicles (EVs) within Wyndham. It provides a framework which guides Council's decision-making. The framework is underpinned by six guiding principles and addresses four key Council responsibilities – at home charging, land use planning for electric vehicles, provision of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and Council leadership including fleet electrification. Together, these set the context for decision making and the prioritisation of specific actions Council will implement to support the uptake of electric vehicles.

## Council's role and responsibilities

Council's understanding of community needs and local mobility patterns alongside our key responsibilities in land use planning, integrated transport, health and the environment position us well to support the use of EVs in Wyndham. However, to achieve this, a coordinated and well-planned response is required that supports existing policies and strategies at all levels of government. The transition to an electrified transport sector requires a variety of factors to facilitate EV uptake. Council's role is to collaborate with other key actors in the electric vehicle transition including state and federal government, private industry, and network distributors to create the policy and market conditions that support an EV transition. This includes utilising our purchasing power to support a second-hand EV market, utilising our responsibilities as a landowner and asset manager to strategically position EV support infrastructure, use our advocacy and community engagement channels to minimise barriers to EV uptake in the community and implement planning mechanisms to provide critical infrastructure to futureproof the Wyndham community.

## Benefits of Electric Vehicles

The transport sector accounts for approximately 25 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions in Victoria. Reducing transport emissions is critical to mitigate climate change and to achieve net-zero carbon emission targets. About 90% of transport emissions are from road transport, with more than half of these from passenger vehicles. EVs are central to the decarbonisation of the transport sector as they offer a zero-emission alternative (if powered by 100% renewable energy) via a technology that is well-established and increasingly being deployed across the road transport sector to be consistent with the Integrated Planning principle in Figure 2 below. There are several benefits of EVs, including:

**Environment** – Zero greenhouse gas emissions where EV's are directly powered by 100% renewable energy

**Public Health** – Improved air quality and amenity through reduced air and noise pollution (EVs have no tailpipe emissions and emit minimal noise at low speed)

**Economic** – Operational savings from greater engine efficiency and reductions in fuel and maintenance costs

## Electric Vehicle Definitions

Electric Vehicles (EVs) are different to conventional internal combustion engine vehicles (ICE vehicles) in that they use electricity, as opposed to petrol or diesel, as a power source. There are generally two different types of electric vehicles available on the Australian market that this policy addresses

**Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV)** – A vehicle with two drive trains – a battery and an internal combustion engine. A PHEV can run on battery-power for a certain kilometre range and then switches over to the combustion engine.

**Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV)** – A vehicle 100% powered by an on-board rechargeable battery. These vehicles use electric motors and motor controllers instead of internal combustion engines. Electric bicycles are considered this variety of electrical vehicle.

These EVs can be charged using a standard power point connection or via specialised charging infrastructure as shown in **Figure 1** below.

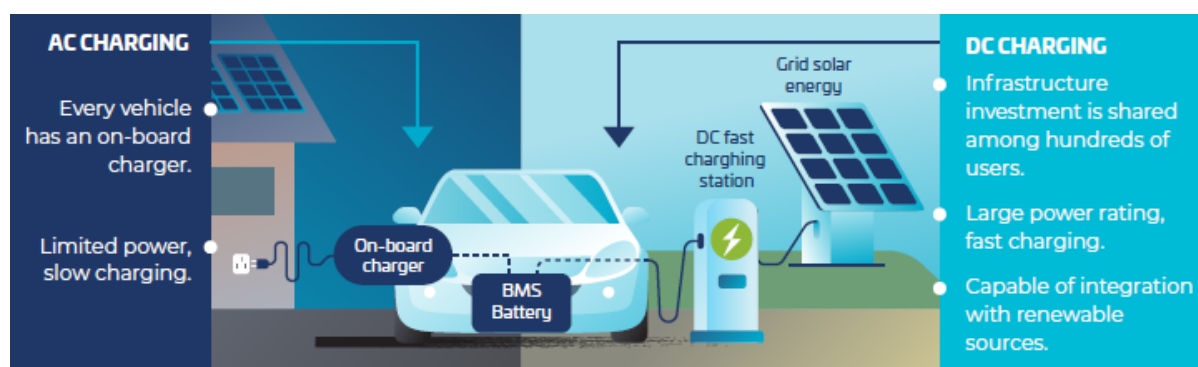


Figure 1: Different ways of charging an EV (Source: Electric Vehicle Council, 2022)

## Policy Context

This policy has been developed within the context of governance strategies, policies and programs across each tier of Australian government. These are identified in the table

below. It is intended that Wyndham supports, not replicates, policies and programs from other tiers of government in this space.

| Governance Body | Relevant Strategies/Policies and Programs  |
|-----------------|--|
| Wyndham City    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wyndham City Council Plan 2021-2025</li> <li>• Wyndham Smart City Strategy 2019 – 2024</li> <li>• Resilient Wyndham Strategy 2021-2025</li> <li>• Wyndham Integrated Transport Strategy Refresh 2022</li> <li>• Wyndham Plan (Draft)</li> </ul> |
| State           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victoria’s Climate Change Strategy</li> <li>• Victoria’s Zero Emission Vehicle Roadmap</li> </ul>   |
| Federal         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Electric Vehicle Strategy 2023</li> <li>• ARENA (Australian Renewable Energy Agency) Future Fuels Program</li> <li>• Treasury Laws Amendment (Electric Car Discount) Bill 2022</li> </ul>  |

## Policy Principles

The EV policy is underpinned by six guiding principles as shown in **Figure 2** below. Together, these policy principles act as a guiding framework for Council’s policy positions and the enabling actions, frameworks and guidelines necessary to implement the EV Policy.





Figure 2: EV Policy Principles

## Policy Statements

| Policy Item   | Policy Statements  | Enabling Actions and Frameworks   | How will these positions and actions support the Policy Principles?   |
|---|--|---|---|
| Support at home private charging (retrofitting and new build) | <p><i>Council is committed to supporting at home charging in Wyndham and will do so in the following ways:</i></p> <p>Council will provide information and guidance to residents who wish to install at home charging infrastructure.</p>  | <p><i>To support this policy position the following enabling actions and/or frameworks are required:</i></p> <p>Develop a set of guidelines and information sheets for at home charging in Wyndham to inform residents of relevant standards and requirements.</p>  | <p><i>These policy statements and actions respond to several of the Policy Principles:</i></p> <p>It supports the electrification of the transport sector in Wyndham, contributing to meeting Wyndham's target of net-zero community emissions by 2040.</p> <p>The development of guidelines will ensure adherence to the Fit for Purpose principle and Equitable Access principle.</p> |
| Land use planning considerations for EVs                      | <p><i>Council will interact with private development to support our community with the appropriate provision of EV charging infrastructure. Specifically, the EV Policy will guide Council's decision-making by adopting the following positions:</i></p> <p>Council will engage with the development community, electricity distributor and other stakeholders to</p> | <p><i>To support this policy position the following enabling actions and/or frameworks are required:</i></p> <p>Council will produce a minimum expectations and guidance document for the inclusion of EV charging infrastructure in new development. This will consider gaps in other regulatory systems and address further support</p> | <p><i>These policy statements and actions respond to several of the Policy Principles:</i></p> <p>It supports the electrification of the transport sector in Wyndham, contributing to meeting Wyndham's target of net-zero community emissions by 2040.</p>   |



|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
|  | identify EV charging needs, constraints and opportunities through new development in Wyndham.                              | needed to deliver appropriate infrastructure.   | Integrated Planning; Equitable Access; and Fit for Purpose principles will be key aspects of planning expectations and standards development.                      |
|  | Council will provide guidance and regulation for the supporting infrastructure required to electrify the transport sector. | Council will develop standards for the provision of public EV charging infrastructure to be used for Wyndham projects and as a reference document within the planning system.   | Economic Development and Integrated Planning outcomes will be achieved by proactively engaging with stakeholders and facilitating the renewable energy transition. |
|  | Council will aim to deliver a best practice and consistent EV charging experience for our community.                       | Council will engage with other levels of Government, energy regulators and industry to ensure EV charging infrastructure is compliant, can access and respond to new opportunities and mitigates impacts to the broader energy network. |  |
|  | Council will encourage and enable micro mobility networks.   |   |  |
|  |  | Council will continue to deliver a program of pathway upgrades, prioritising connecting paths, bike only and shared pathways where feasible in line with the Active Transport 2020 audit findings.                                      |  |
|  |  | Council will support the installation of end of journey infrastructure at strategic locations across the municipality (eg town centres, public transport hubs,.)  |  |

| Policy Item   | Policy Statements  | Enabling Actions and Frameworks   | How will these positions and actions support the Policy Principles?  |
|---|--|---|--|
| Provision of public/away from home EV charging infrastructure | <i>Council is committed to supporting the establishment of a public EV charging network in Wyndham and will do so in accordance with the following statements:</i>                 | <i>To achieve this, Council will implement the following enabling actions and/or frameworks:</i>  | <i>These policy statements and actions respond to several of the Policy Principles:</i>  |
|   | Council will work with the community, and other stakeholders to identify EV charging needs and opportunities in Wyndham.   | Continue to review its key selection criteria for preferred EV charger locations, site suitability, ideal service delivery models and appropriate charger types.              | It supports the electrification of the transport sector in Wyndham, contributing to meeting Wyndham's target of net-zero community emissions by 2040.  |
|   | Council may lead the delivery and operation of EV charging infrastructure where it is in the best interest of the Wyndham community to do so.                                      | Council set fees for public charging at rate that recovers installation, maintenance, and operation costs without dissuading private operators from operating within Wyndham. | Integrated Planning; Equitable Access; Economic Development; and Fit for Purpose principles will form key selection criteria for the EV Charging Network Study when identifying short-, medium-, and long-term public EV charger sites/hubs. |
|   | Council will explore opportunities for other EV deployments in Wyndham, including the provision of shared mobility options (car, bike and scooter) and/or charging infrastructure. |   | The development of site selection criteria and guidelines demonstrates adherence to the Fit for Purpose principle.<br><br>Smart city concepts will be used to monitor and visualise EV charging trends.                                      |

| Policy Item                                  | Policy Statements   | Enabling Actions and Frameworks   | How will these positions and actions support the Policy Principles?  |
|--|---|---|--|
| Council leadership and fleet electrification | <i>Council is committed to providing leadership on the EV transition in Wyndham and will do so in accordance with the following statements:</i>   | <i>To achieve this, Council will implement the following enabling actions and/or frameworks:</i>  | <i>These policy statements and actions respond to a number of the Policy Principles:</i>   |
|  | Council will fully transition its vehicle fleet to ZEVs by 2035 and integrate this target into Council decision-making and procurement processes. | Deliver the Fleet Transition Plan for all of Council's vehicles and plant.  | It supports the decarbonisation of Council's fleet, contributing to meeting Wyndham's target of net-zero corporate emissions by 2023 and community emissions by 2040.  |
|  | Council will assist the Wyndham community in navigating the EV transition by providing leadership, information and education on EVs.              | Apply for grants to support fleet electrification and advocate for future EV funding and policy support from state and federal governments. | The Fleet Transition Plan and implementation will be underpinned by smart city concepts, exploring and utilising smart charging technologies and digital innovations to support the integration of EVs into Council's fleet. |
|  | Council will include vehicle electrification considerations in service delivery and emergency management planning.                                | Undertake community awareness raising and education on EVs through Council's existing engagement platforms.                                 | EVs have the potential to be the most fit for purpose option for council, creating less pollution, having a higher return on investment and fulfilling staff mobility needs.   |
|  |   | The expanding electrification of transport and other sectors will be modelled and considered under blackout and other emergency scenarios.  |  |



## Duration, monitoring, evaluation and review

The EV market and technology is constantly evolving. This requires a policy response that supports the EV transition whilst providing a level of flexibility and adaptability to changing circumstances. For this reason, a review of the Policy is proposed to be undertaken annually. The annual review will consider (but is not limited to) the following aspects.

1. Market developments over the preceding year including EV ownership rates and EV charger demand in Wyndham.
2. Usage at Council-owned and operated EV chargers including analysis of charging fees, operational costs and revenue models.
3. Technological developments of EV chargers and EV models in Australia e.g., utility and heavy vehicle trends, smart charging technologies, software developments etc.
4. Lessons learnt from local government in Australia and abroad in relation to fleet transition and EV charger infrastructure provisions.
5. Reviewing these aspects will identify if any changes to the Policy is required or if there are unexpected challenges that will need to be addressed through the Policy or its enabling actions, frameworks or guidelines.
6. The findings of the review will be summarised and shared with internal stakeholders, including the Executive Leadership team.